

Oswald's Mother Tells Her Version

By Mary Hornaday

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New York
The National Guardian, "progressive newsweekly" which this past week sponsored a packed New York mass meeting for Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, mother of President Kennedy's accused slayer, says it has no plans for her to make a cross-country speaking tour. Public speaking in behalf of a second version of the Kennedy assassination, different from that of the majority of law-enforcement officials, will probably be left, it was indicated, to a maverick New York lawyer, Mark Lane, who is currently making lectures across the country severely criticizing the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Secret Service, and Dallas police. Mrs. Oswald is slated, meanwhile, to stay in New York City to write a book.

The mother of Lee Harvey Oswald attracted an audience of 1,500 to Town Hall, and hundreds of would-be ticket buyers were turned away. Core of the meeting was the variegated group that turns out in this metropolis for any public meeting with an ideological tinge, but many were attracted out of just plain curiosity.

Bond Posted

"I'm more curious about this Mrs. Oswald than any other aspect of the case," admitted a business executive in the box-office line. Said a playwright, "I'm just curious." Seats for her appearance were priced from \$1.50 to \$5.

As it was, the New York

meeting was nearly canceled because the Town Hall management worried that it could get out of hand. The event was allowed to proceed only after a \$25,000 bond was posted to cover possible damage to the premises.

Mrs. Oswald continues to contend that her son was innocent of the Kennedy assassination. She repeated here what she told the Warren Commission several days ago—that she believes her son was a United States intelligence agent who was "set up to take the blame" for the assassination.

Chief Justice Earl Warren has summed up her position: "She believes her son is innocent, that it is possible that he committed the crime, but that it is possible that other people could have committed it."

'Seeds of Doubt'

Mrs. Oswald told the audience here: "I carried on this fight alone from the start and I'm going to continue to carry the fight. My son is innocent until proved guilty. That's the American way of life. My son was not on the FBI list of suspicious persons in Dallas. There is every possibility he worked for the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency). Why else would he have posed openly as a leftist and a Marxist, if not to get in with these organizations and find out what they were doing?"

In addition to Mr. Lane and Mrs. Oswald, the main speakers at the Town Hall meeting were the authors of a recent New Republic magazine article, "Seeds of Doubt" raising questions about Lee Oswald as the President's assassin. The co-authors of the article were: Prof. Staughton Lynd, professor of history at Spellman College, Atlanta, and Jack Minnis, Chairman of the New York meeting was Prof. David

Huber of Rutgers Law School.

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Mr. Lane, who is working with Mrs. Oswald to publicize her case, unsuccessfully ran for the New York Legislature a few years ago as reform Democrat from a substantial East Side Manhattan area. During his campaign, he sponsored a variety of civil-rights and peace causes, including the defeat of a bomb shelter system for New York State.

At Town Hall he played a tape recording, on which a Dallas schoolteacher who witnessed the President's assassination said she heard shots come from an overpass ahead of the President's car. If true, this would mean the shots did not come from the book warehouse where police and witnesses have placed Oswald at the time of the shooting.

Indicating considerable lack of interest in whether Mrs. Oswald makes a nationwide tour or not, editors of the National Guardian said their sponsorship of the New York meeting arose from a conviction that an open hearing should be given all sides in the Oswald case in the interest of the American concepts of free speech and free inquiry.